

Speech of Mr. Maurice Bishop, Prime Minister of Grenada.

March 20, 1981.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the presidium, Sisters and Brothers,

On behalf of our party, the New Jewel Movement, our Government and the people of Grenada, I want to thank M.E.P., the Electoral Movement of the People of Aruba, for extending such a generous invitation for me and my delegation to be here. I extend the fullest fraternal, cordial and sincerest best wishes and congratulations to the leaders, founders, officers and members of M.E.P. on the outstanding occasion of ten years of your founding as a popular people's party. I congratulate you in particular, Mr. Chairman, for your very clear, your very committed leadership over these past 10 years. I certainly have been impressed by your honesty, by your steadfastness you have demonstrated in the pursuit of your very principles and just goals.

Mr. Chairman, we congratulate you also on the occasion of five years of the launching of a flag and an anthem of the proud people of Aruba. The formation of a popular people's party, and the launching of both a flag and an anthem signify most clearly to all the world that the people of Aruba are indeed serious and committed to the forward march for self-determination and independence. In Grenada you must know, that the people of Aruba have a very deep assurance that in us they will always have a true friend, a true ally, and a true supporter.

I am particularly happy and enthusiastic to be here, because we in the party and Government of Grenada have a deep commitment to the process of Caribbean independence and liberation, and as importantly, to Caribbean integration, solidarity and cooperation. It is our very firm view, that though we were colonized by different masters, and therefore have had different colonial experiences which have served to divide and separate us in order to rule us better, we are essentially and fundamentally one Caribbean people: hard working, patriotic, democratic, progressive, anxious to have a better life, anxious to develop our own processes free from all forms of outside direction. Under colonization, we were taught different languages, different European cultural traditions and we were encouraged to ape our respective masters. In addition to this, the long and bitter rivalries between the colonial powers themselves, ensured that we did not have much opportunity for contact with each other. Thus they carved up our region, and gave rise to artificial differences of language and alleged cultural differences, strengthened no doubt by our geographic separation. But many islands states (such as the Seychelles and the Bahamas - with some 600 islands) have shown that geographic barriers are in fact surmountable. Indeed, you the six members of the Federation of the Netherlands Antilles have given the world the next proof that despite geographical separation, you are committed to and can in fact work together in the interest of all the people of the six islands. And it is for this and other reasons, that we believe that part of the process of regaining our sovereignty in the

Caribbean must include the struggle to remove all artificial barriers. Thus one of our main concerns as an English speaking Caribbean country is to actively develop the closest possible ties and cooperation with the Dutch speaking, the French speaking, the Spanish speaking, and indeed American speaking sister islands. To this we are committed as a party, as a Government and as a people.

I am particularly happy also today to be here, because this in effect has become a mini-gathering of the Socialist International. It has provided an opportunity therefore to meet with some friends from the old days, in particular to meet once again with Comrade Gallardo of Guatemala, a Comrade who was been in the forefront of his own struggle, a man who has given his entire life to the struggle for his people, a man therefore this entire Conference, I am sure, will want to go on record as recognizing the tremendous contribution that he has made over the years.

This Conference also provides for me an opportunity to meet with the distinguished and illustrious Secretary General, Brother Carlson of the Socialist International. And I am certain, Mr. Chairman, that you will want me to take the full opportunity of this occasion and to engage in talks with Mr. Carlson. I certainly intend to do so.

In approaching the subject matter.

In approaching the question of development, we see it as an ongoing scientific activity, having as its primary goals the attainment of the fullest social, cultural, spiritual, political and economic potential of any people. Particularly for poor, exploited and oppressed countries of the world, we see the task of development as one having both a political and economic dimension, and we say clearly then, that there is an unbreakable link between economic transformation and political independence. For us, there is a clear link between the price we pay for essential goods and services and the political outlook of the ruling party of any country. Hence, we are convinced that there can be no strict separation between politics and economics. The two, inextricably linked, give rise to the political economy of development. Indeed this approach to the question of development is indispensable to our very survival, being as we are, countries with long histories of colonial exploitation, backwardness and underdevelopment. And therefore in any genuine effort to go forward, raising the standard of living for our people, moving from ignorance, superstition, ignorance, illiteracy, backwardness and widespread poverty, to jobs, decent housing and all the basic human needs of our people, we must register the greatest possible political commitment, the firmest political will and the highest political unity as poor nations in the struggle for economic and social justice.

Small island states, such as Grenada, and no doubt Aruba, are characterized by a variety of features, considered "normal" for poor underdeveloped countries. These include:

1. very low and generally grossly uneven per capita incomes;
2. a low level of scientific and technological development, as well as;
3. a lack of institutions and organizations designed for modern production.

In addition, small island states obviously have small land sizes and small resource bases; countries falling into this category generally have a land size no larger than 500 sq. miles (approximately 1200 sq. km.). The limitations of such small land base are many, including the need for a much stricter economic and social use of the limited land. Land use policies are therefore often indispensable to orderly housing, agricultural, recreational, and other developmental needs.

Small land size which is often combined with small population, also gives rise to the unavoidable problem of limited internal markets. This generally leads to the creation of a structural dependence on external markets and certain political implications naturally flow from this:

1. Such implication is that a country dependent on another much larger and more powerful country finds that independent political and ideological decisions are often near impossible, and must be subordinated for economic considerations. This can frustrate and compromise the political will of a people.

2. Given small size combined with a near exclusive dependence on one or two economic sectors, such as agriculture or oil refining, such countries experience a high degree of vulnerability. In the case of heavy reliance on agriculture, this vulnerability is compounded by the fact that the developing country in question most usually only exports the raw material, whereas the value added that goes with processing activities accrues to the developed countries. A pertinent example here, is Grenada's nutmeg which is now sold in its raw form to Holland, among other countries. It is then processed by that country into condiments of different sorts and exported to Aruba and back to Grenada itself. Holland, not Grenada, gets the considerable value added to the final product. In the case of refining, the country is dependent on market decisions taken by multinationals and demand fluctuations in the developed world over which Aruba or Curaçao has absolutely no control. Such dependence places the country in question in severe jeopardy, because in a matter of hours, and through a single decision of a transnational corporation, disproportional hardship can befall such a small island state. This economic terror can be much more easily buttressed in the case of a country developing or developed, where there are multi-economic sector activities.

3. The problems which emerge here are many, complex and challenging. Small populations mean that there is a limited pool of skilled persons to draw on in the total development process. The engineering planning and implementation phases of key development projects and programs are often left in the hands of international technical experts who are not always culturally, or psychologically able or sufficiently motivated to cope with the array of social, cultural, and even bureaucratic problems they might encounter.

Administrative and programatic bottlenecks can arise, further delaying the tasks of bringing benefits to the people.

And even when small island states skilled and talented citizens migration to the ever luring metropolitan centres is a constant setback for most developing countries and this becomes an even greater disruption in the case of small island states. Thus efficiency and a degree of permanence in our human resources pool is extremely difficult to obtain. And in the case of economic development activity it becomes near impossible to take full advantage of international grants and loans by not having the national counterparts with the required skills to put programs into effect. This lack of human resource pool is felt in all sections of the society, where it becomes literally impossible to find trained mechanics, agronomists, social scientist, all at the same time, and in adequate numbers in one's own country.

Small population and the resultant small pool of skilled personnel also adversely affects foreign policy. You might ask how is this so? This is so, because just as we find it difficult to staff our technical pool inside the country, it is even much more difficult to staff even the modest few diplomatic missions around the world. And these missions, you would agree, play a most valuable role in the foreign economic policy and the general political diplomatic presence which is so crucial to the small island state.

4. Lack of capital formation immediately presents problems of low capital investments which in turn frustrates job creation as well as the establishment and expansion of a modern industrial nation. Thus, it is not uncommon for agriculture to remain underdeveloped, and dependent on rudimentary and backward technology. A good example of this is that in 1981, despite the scientific and technological leaps evident in the developed world, the cutlass, an invention of the 1700's, is still the major weeding, planting and harvesting tool in almost all of our islands.

The inability to finance and build a modern physical infrastructure is also a feature of low capital formation. Airports, seaports, jetties, roads, adequate transportation, efficient communication systems are either non-existent or else relics of colonialist interests and priorities. We should note that there is a more efficient transportation to Holland and London, than between Grenada and Aruba. Inside one's own country. Inside one's country the lack of communications and transportation infrastructure, results all too often in an inability to push the economy forward at a satisfactory pace, and in some cases, glaring town and country differences that are truly unwarranted and downright ridiculous continue to exist in countries as small as ours. Tourism, so dependent on efficient water, sewage, electricity and telephone supplies can in fact be rendered non-competitive if it does not keep pace with neighbouring attractiveness and competition.

Finally a most critical problem of small island states is the

vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, floods and volcanic eruptions. In recent months these have taken both a human and economic toll on islands in our region, such as St. Vincent (the eruption of the Souffriere), Grenada (floods), and Dominica (hurricanes Allen and Frederick). It is perhaps noteworthy that whereas in just one month, November 1979, we had in Grenada 23 inches of rain. I am told that in Aruba your average and your rainfall is about 18 inches per year. It appears we have too much rain, while you have too little

As we meet here to consider the political and economic development of our micro-states, we must know that the world economy is riddled with an economic crisis of massive proportions. In its most recent report on the world economic situation, The International Monetary Fund begins with the statement that, "The world economic picture is rather grim".

The international monetary and economic crisis in the industrial western world is manifested in many ways:

1. Unemployment of phenomenal proportions. Some 40 million people estimated to be out of work; unofficial figures of 14 million for the United States and some 3 for England.
2. Runaway inflation, double digit inflation, almost unheard of in post World War II industrial societies, seems to have taken firm hold of these very economies.
3. Prolonged decline in industrial output: This has come to be a near permanent feature in economies once considered to be "stabled and advancing".
4. There is also the worsening of the balance of trade, especially for developing countries it is accelerating at a rate faster than recovery is possible.
5. Further, worldwide environmental decay and industrial pollution of land, of air, of sea, of rivers.
6. There is too the deterioration of the condition of the rural poor in particular in developing countries; illiteracy rates are actually increasing in some of these countries, especially among women; malnutrition, famine, and hunger are also on the rise, so too the spread of scientifically curable diseases - all these are the lot of some 400-450 million people in today's world. This economic crisis in the advanced industrial countries is characterized as the "worst economic mess since the Great Depression of 1929". If this is so for the big and the rich countries, then how much worse must it be for us, the small and poor countries of the world.

We in Grenada recognise the tremendous obstacles that we face. Particularly, as in addition to the economic crisis we also have to contend with increasing military threats and destabilisation of all forms against our country.

Yet, our experience over 2 years has been concrete proof that it is possible to move forward and to make progress even in the face of adversity.

How is this possible? Our experience has taught us that if the following guideline are observed, then progress is possible even in the face of the most tremendous odds.

1. Always be honest with the people. Always tell the people the facts. Never attempt to fool the people. Never make the people believe that manna will fall from heaven. Always attempt to raise their consciousness as to the reality of the world, the reality of our region, the reality of their own economy and in particular the difficulties that lie ahead.

Our people in Grenada now increasingly understand that 350 years of British Colonialism and 29 years of Hurricane Gairyism cannot be wished away. They now know clearly, that after 350 years the British Colonialists had built only one school, and yet it took the Revolution only 18 months to build the 2nd Government Secondary School ever to be constructed in our country.

They understand that 29 years of Gairy brutality, political murders and disappearances, lack of planning, total denial of all basic civil and human rights, dictatorial repressive rule, massive unemployment to the tune of well over half of the work force being without jobs, almost total destruction of the agricultural basis of the economy, rape of all the democratic institutions in the country, complete demoralisation of public services and all other workers in the country, international links with the MAFIA, with Chile, with Haiti, with South Korea and other hated fascist forces around the world cannot be corrected overnight. They understand very clearly that what is now needed is a joint effort of Government and people to erect a new social, political and economic order in this period of national reconstruction.

2. We in Grenada also firmly follow a path of placing our people always at the centre and focus of all of our activities, all of our actions, all of our plans.

Our goals are to involve them in everything, get them to participate in everything, and organize them in popular democratic and grass roots organisations from which they can be easily mobilised for productive action.

We believe firmly, that only this participation, involvement, organisation and mobilisation can lay the basis for going forward in these dangerous and difficult times and achieving the necessary social, political and economic transformation. Dozens of new organisations have arisen in Grenada as a result of this approach and in response to this call. These organisations have been created by the people themselves and are therefore relevant to the people's needs. These organisations do not engage in academic discussions, but pursue concrete goals and objectives in a concrete and practical way, and on a daily basis. These organisations of the people identify the problems in their communities and then move to find solutions for these problems.

Thus, the community work brigades, e.g., these brigades come out on Sunday mornings and engage in voluntary community work: cutting overhangings, unblocking drains, repairing roads, building totally new community centres and generally being involved (free of all labour costs) in rebuilding their community and country. Remarkable as this may sound, there are Sundays when 85% of the villages in Grenada are out there doing voluntary community work on Sunday mornings.

Another such grass roots, democratic institutions thrown up by the Revolution is the Community Education Councils. These councils comprising of parents, teachers, students and people of the community generally are increasingly being involved in helping to monitor the quantity and quality of education available to the children of our country. Last year, in January 1980, for a 2 week period, these councils were able to voluntarily to effect repairs to and refurbish 66 Primary Schools in our country. Thus, leading to a saving of some \$ 2million for the taxpayers of our country.

As a result of the Revolution, Gairy's anti-worker and anti-peoples law, such as the Essential Services Act of 1978, which took away from 11 of the most critical categories of workers in our country, the right to strike were repealed. So too the Public Order Amendment Act 1974, which prohibited the use of loudspeakers at public meetings, thus effectively banning the holding of such public meetings, that law too was repealed. Now, everyone is free to use loudspeakers and to hold political meetings at will.

At the same time, Peoples Law, no. 29, of 1979 was passed. This new law guarantee the rights of workers both to form and join trade unions of their choice and protects all workers from victimization for trade union activities. Since the revolution trade union membership has increased from 30% to over 80% in the urban areas, until over 90% in the rural areas.

For the women workers of our country, the practice of sexual exploitation by the corrupt Gairy dictatorship and by other equally unprincipled employers was abolished by the revolution, and a system of equal pay for equal work was introduced. At the same time a maternity leave law was passed last year, giving our women three months paid leave during pregnancy.

As a small poor island state with limited resources, our approach to social and economic development is focused on meeting the basic needs of our people. This approach has been relative successful. Thus, while some advanced industrialized countries are closing hospitals and health clinics, we in Grenada have improved and expanded our basic health services. Our hospitals are now adequately stocked with medicines and a number of new modern items, of necessary health equipment, such as X-ray machines, dental chairs, and ambulances have been added to the existing stock. The maternity and casualty departments of the hospitals have been upgraded and equiped. An Intensive Care Unit has been added for the first time and a new eye hospital has at long last been built and opened in the last few months.

While in some industrial countries medical assistance to the poor is being cut back, the Grenada Revolution has brought free basic health care to the Grenadian people, this happening for the very first time in the history of our country. It has doubled the number of doctors and tripled the number of dentists now serving the people. It has moved from a situation of one dental clinic in 1978 to 7 dental clinics being opened around the country.

While some industrialised countries are closing schools and cutting back or abandoning educational assistance programmes, we are building new schools, increasing the amount of public expenditure on education, providing free milk and hot meals for primary school children and from September of this year secondary education will be completely free in our country.

While some developed countries are decreasing the availability of university scholarships, Grenada is now providing over 200 university scholarships for its citizens to study abroad, and this figure must be compared with only three in the last year of Gairy in 1978.

While some industrialized countries are reducing food subsidy programmes to the poor, we have been able to keep the cost of some basic food items, such as sugar and rice, well below the world market prices through the creation of a National Importing and Marketing Board.

While some rich countries are reducing subsidies to farmers, we have been able to provide increased amounts of fertilizer and seeds and planting materials and created a common machinery pool providing access to modern farming technology.

One of the casualties of the international economic crisis has been public housing programmes. But today in Grenada a housing repair programme benefitting the poorest people in our country is functioning smoothly and three new programmes of housing have just been started.

Daily, we read about more lay-offs and job retrenchments in the industrial world. Thousands are put out of work as factories after factories close their doors.

While we in Grenada still have a serious unemployment problem, inherited from the Gairy dictatorship, we nevertheless were able to create over 2500 new jobs in just the first 12 months, thus partially reducing our massive unemployed force.

Understanding that we are a small island state, with limited natural and human resources, our approach has been to get the maximum mileage out of the minimum resources that we have.

This has meant concretely upgrading our human resources by lifting the educational and cultural levels of our people through programmes, such as the Centre for Popular Education, which in less than six months was able to make just under 1000 of our people literate. At the same time a National Teacher In Service Training Program is now improving the teaching skills of more than 500 Primary School-teachers in our country.

In addition new training schools have been opened for hotel workers, for fishermen and for farmers, while in service training programs for policemen, for public workers, have all been added since the revolution. All of these of course aimed at equipping

the masses of our working people with the necessary skills and expertise needed to construct a new society.

This emphasis of getting the most out of the little that we have is further manifested in such developments as a new cooperative thrust especially in the agricultural sector which is aimed as we say at home, of marrying "Idle hands with Idle lands" to increase food production, to save scarce foreign exchange, and simultaneously to reduce unemployment.

It is no accident that our theme for the Second Festival of the Revolution last week was "Grow more food build the Revolution". Understanding the importance of being self sufficient, especially in food production, the People's Revolutionary Army has taken up the challenge and embarked on a program this year of feeding itself. Getting the maximum out of the minimum resources has also made it imperative for us, to struggle actively against all forms of waste, corruption and inefficiency. Our policy of self sufficiency has been spearheaded by our determination to transform our economy by breaking the stifling dependence on other economies, and laying the basis for planned and progressive developments. This conscious aim can only be accomplished by a scientific and planned approach to development, which utilizes such features as the compilation and analysis of statistics, census data and feasibility studies. This kind of planning unprecedented in the history of our country, is now being carried out by teams of committed technocrats.

Over the last two years, our experience has shown us that our economic viability as a poor micro-state means that we must rapidly increase the output of our productive sector. For us this concretely means the four pillars of our national economy, agriculture, agro-industries, tourism, and fisheries. And in each of these areas we have made important advances and have begun to lay the bases for breaking our traditional dependence and also for achieving a necessary economic transformation in our country.

For us agriculture is a particular priority. The revitalization of agriculture has been given the highest priority by our Government. 1981 has been declared the year of agriculture and agro-industries and this year also a new ministry of Rural Development has been created to assist in coordinating and administering greater agricultural production.

We in Grenada firmly believe that not only must we produce primary agricultural commodities for export markets, but we must also begin to process our agricultural products. Hence, the establishment over the past two years of an agro-industrial sector in our economy.

We have set up a modern factory capable of canning and bottling fruit juices, nectars, jellies and condiments and also for grinding raw coffee and cocoa into refined products.

This year emphasis will be placed on increasing our meat production with the establishment of new pig and poultry farms.

We plan also to increase our fish catch by enlarging our fleet of fishing trawlers and continuing the training of our fishermen in modern fishing techniques. Already significant quantities of our catch are salted and dried for consumption on the local market.

In the area of tourism, plans are afoot for the construction of new hotel for organising more tours and for stepped-up international promotion.

In brief, these are our plans for increasing domestic production as a way of breaking out of the dependency syndrome.

But complementing our local efforts in this regard is our vigorous struggle, along with other developing countries, for new international economic order that would guarantee better prices for primary products, open up new markets, correct present trade imbalances and facilitate the transfer of science and technology from the developed to the developing countries.

And even though historically the North-South dialogue has been a dialogue of the deaf, with the South talking and the North not listening, we do not advocate abandonment of this effort, we feel that all efforts to continue to bring pressure, to bear on the richer countries in the world, to bring economic justice to the poorer countries must be continued. And in fact we certainly acknowledge with appreciation that we have received from countries like Canada the ten members countries of the EEC and various countries of the Socialist world important technical assistance, important economic assistance over this past two years.

Nonetheless we would like to stress emphatically the importance of expanding South-South cooperation. We in Grenada understand concretely the benefits that can be derived from principled collaboration and assistance among Third World countries, because we have received substantial developmental aid from various countries, like in the Middle East, from Cuba, from Venezuela, from Panama, from Tanzania, from Kenya, and from Nigeria, to mention a few such countries. Such fraternal assistance between and among the states of the South must continue and must be strengthened.

PEACE.

We in Grenada are quite convinced that peace, peace in the world and peace in the region, is essential for our development. There can be no peace if there is rampant poverty, backwardness and plunder of the poor of the world. Equally, there can be no development without peace.

Because the resources of the world, the vast resources of the world, must be used for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the handicapped, the dispossessed of the world. We must have peace if we are to attain and maintain peaceful development and progress. Grenada seeks no quarrels, Grenada seeks no interferences, for

we have a firm belief in peaceful co-existence, in good neighborliness, in mutual respect for all; we believe firmly and passionately in the legal equality of all states, regardless of size, territorial integrity and in sovereignty.

We believe that we have right to live in peace. We have right to develop our own resources for the benefit of our own people, and not for the benefit of a tiny handful or transnational corporations around the world. We believe we have right to build our own economy, free from the strings of foreign aid dependency. We have a right to live a life free from the threat of military power, nuclear threat, and destruction of our land and sea resources.

We have a right to develop relations with whomever we want as long as the people of our countries want these relations.

We have a right to be free of tensions, free of fears, free of intimidations, free of big stick politics, free of instability, free of the threat of mercenary or other invasions, free of terrorism.

This is why Grenada in November 1979, initiated in the Organization of the American States, a resolution calling on all in the region to strictly respect the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace.

The main aspects of our regional policy call for:

- Our expressions of deep concern over the heightening of tensions in the region. Our desire to see an end to aggressive military manoeuvres in the region.

- Our firm support for the concept of ideological pluralism in the region.

- Our determination to have all foreign military basis disbandoned once they are on people's territories without their consent.

- And our firm and repeated support that the region be declared and recognized in practice as a Zone of Peace in all appropriate regional and international fora.

To summarize quickly, Mr. Chairman:

In response to the international economic crisis and in specific response to the need to build a strong viable state, Grenada has concretely brought political, social and economic benefits to our people through faithful observance of the principles mentioned above.

This is how we have come to have had:

- free health care at this point;
- free education as of September this year;
- 9 new training programs for our people;
- new economic discipline and fiscal management;
- and a developing productive sector..

All of these are integral parts of our economic development and transformation based on honesty and involvement of the people, as well as on maximum effort and cooperation.

Secondly, Grenada has actively and concretely pursued the cause of the special problems and all disadvantages of all small poor micro-states in all the international fora available to us:

1. Starting with the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Lusaka, Zambia, in August of 1979, Grenada first raised this matter with the international community. We pressed hard for and were able to get the establishment of a special committee to monitor and advance the contributions of commonwealth member states bilaterally and multilaterally to the needs of small island states. Paragraphs 53 and 54 of the final communique of the conference noted the urgent needs of small island states, stating that: "In order to offset the disadvantages of small size, isolation and scarce resources which adversely limit the capacity of such countries to achieve their developmental objectives or to pursue their national interests in a wider international context, special measures of support were required".

2. In September 1979 we again raised this important development issue in the non-aligned meeting in Havana, Cuba.

3. And in October, 1979, we once again brought the matter before the United Nations calling for action to be taken on this special problem.

And as recently as last month, in New Delhi, India, Grenada once again took the matter to the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Non-aligned Movement, where some 94 foreign ministers and national liberation movements jointly agreed to take up the special plight of poor micro-states. In its final communique, the Non-aligned Movement:

"expressed the opinion that the island developing countries, especially the smaller ones require the urgent attention of the international community", and the ministers decided to create a group of experts for studying special measures that could be adopted in favour of island developing countries.

The meeting also called upon all members of the Non-aligned Movement to consider request for aid from such countries.

Mr. Chairman, in this way we have concretely been struggling, not only for ourselves, but other similarly disadvantaged countries to receive the recognition of the problems that we face and to request that immediate assistance be given for these problems to be addressed.

Mr. Chairman, we therefore urge all countries like ours (small island states, especially disadvantaged states), particularly those represented in the organizations mentioned before, and all of us of course who belong to the Socialist International, to take full advantage of such measures available, and to continue to press for a deeper understanding of our special problems and for action to be taken.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, Grenada has concretely struggled for world peace. Thus apart of our call for the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, want to repeat today here:

Our call for disarmament.

Our call for detente.

Our call for resumption of Salt II talks.

Our call for peaceful co-existence and mutual respect of all countries.

And Mr. Chairman, today in Aruba on your soil, on this historic occasion in the presence of so many illustrious fighters for their rights of their peoples, Grenada firmly renews this call and pledges to do all in our power to obtain this loftily objectives.

As we say in Grenada: A people that is united, unconscious, organized, and vigilant can never be defeated.

Long live the M.E.F.,

- long live the proud people of free Aruba;
- long live the Socialist International;
- long live the struggles of poor and working people for independence national liberation and social progress.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.